

I have been incarcerated for ten years straight now & have served time at seven different institutions. This is a brief partial summary of abuse instances, occurrences, and events spanning ten years of my incarceration .My catalogued compilation comprises the following:

While at D.C.I.I was being held in a single cell in general population when several correctional officers appeared at my cell where they proceeded to handcuff me. They then escorted me directly to the shower for a strip search while other guards simultaneously searched my cell and property for contraband. This search turned up nothing , leaving the guards with no cause to implement further security measures or to take actions against me. However , I was then escorted to the isolation unit(the hole)where I was confined for three weeks in a status the D.O.C. calls T.L.U. which means temporary lock up but is no different from segregation status. Lieutenant Miriani told me I was being placed in T.L.U. pending an investigation for alleged possession of contraband. The facts are, My person, property turned up nothing and that was the conclusion of the investigation when they were unable to find anything that was not in compliance with the rules of the WI Dept. of Corrections -The time I spent in unwarranted isolations caused me severe distress and inflicted long lasting psychological .damage... After my solitary confinement, the institution decided to send me to my unit without any ticket. I had previously been initially classified and placement at W.C.I. or C.C.I. There were the two places I was told, would be suitable for me and were recommended by the classification specialist, but when it came time for me to go I was told I was going to the WSPF ,known: by most people as Boscobel. I was on clinical monitoring for mental health illnesses, and at that time I was aware of a court order from the Honorable Judge Barbara Crab that prohibited the placement of people with mental illnesses at this particular place of confinement. Because I knew about this and the other fact that they were ordered not to force feed anyone without a courts permission, I told the officials at D.C.I. that if they send me there I wouldn't be eating or drinking under protest due to the fact they were legally bound by a court order not to force feed without the express consent of a judge. I n attempt to break my will or spirit, I was transferred to Boscobel and started my protest immediately just like I said I would. After six days without water, or food, they took me to the Boscobel Memorial Hospital where they acted in concert to perpetrate a predetermined outcome scheme of coercing me to consent to a doctor visit with the intention of feeding me against my penal interest'. I explained to the doctor that I was exercising my constitutional right to protest and that I understood the risk to my health. I then communicated in unequivocal terms to the doctor that if he even thought of force feeding me or giving me an intravenous injection, that I would have his medical license hanging on the wall of my cell because the judge has an order against this. He declined to test my promise and I was sent back to Boscobel pronto! When I returned, a captain met me at the door and told me I wouldn't be seeing general population again and that he and that he was placing me in observation status. I also was told that as soon as I eat a meal, that I would be transferred to C.C.I. The captain also told me that prison officials, and other staff couldn't let other inmates see what I did worked (I took this comment to mean there were many others that were not supposed to be there either,)They took me to Alpha unit and I was put into an observation cell without adequate clothing, heat or bedding and after I froze all night , I ate and was transferred to C.C.I.

After being at C.C.I. a few months, I had major surgery on my left knee. When I was having trouble with the stairs a supervisor saw that this was hazardous, and had me put in the infirmary. I was placed into a four man cell by myself. This is where my story gets criminal with an officers confession and conviction to prove-my allegation. After the major surgery I was put on two drugs that officer David Yatalese would steal all of every time he worked, these drugs were methadone and vicodin used to treat my post surgical pain. When he would work all of these medications would play like Houdini and disappear! So I started reporting this immediately as I was in enormous pain because the health services staff wouldn't refill the medicine for days because I was not supposed to be out so soon-The same officer that was stealing my medicine's was also responsible for filling out the medication log and it is a hideous example of what happens when the D.O.C.gives unlicensed correctional officers permission to distribute drugs to inmates. When I would report them missing by saying something to a guard like "there's no way I am out, health services just put brand new refills in this morning" , I would often be met with threats like "you best be really careful about saying stuff like that" or "You just keep your mouth shut" and so on. The pain I was in was extremely severe, however, instead of initiating an internal investigation immediately correctional officers started pulling me out of my cell for strip searches on several occasions, these actions only made my pain worse.

I believe this was a pattern of harassment that was to be considered as staff misconduct and also a premeditated tactic to try and deter any possible action from me. Then one day Lieutenant Shanenburg came through and heard me out, told me he would look into it and that's what started an investigation finally. He should be commended for doing the right thing instead of what I see all too often, correctional officers trying to back each other no matter whether they're right or wrong. You wouldn't believe all the times I heard a officer say these are my brothers and sisters. The fact is Lieutenant Shanenburg's efforts, along with some other supervisors resulted in the arrest of David Yatalese, and from what I understand this problem was far and wide throughout the corrections system. Yatalese lost his job & was convicted. Shortly after David Yatalese's arrest his Co-workers started making good on their threats against me. I.E. Seargeant Grim wrote me a conduct report for Disrespect, Disruptive Conduct, Disobeying orders,and Threats. I had not made any threat towards her or anyone and was not being disruptive, or disrespectful. I was thrown into the hole for her false accusations, and got another ticket from Sergeant Mayday for more false allegations just a few days later. At that point I had had enough of the brotherhood and felt I was Bullied. Due to a lack of a supervising watch group that is not employed by the State of Wisconsin, the inmate complaint examiners often eat lunch together and are D.O.C.employees. I felt so helpless, I tried to kill myself .After my suicide attempt I once again was subjected to what I call torture when I was put in observation status, I froze again, had no clothing, or adequate bedding. This just made-me want to kill myself more. The psychological impact from these experiences has changed me forever and caused permanent damage to me. I eventually was let out of observation and stayed in the hole until they Seg. Traded me to R.C.I. When I got there Security director Aldana, and Seg.Capt. were very fair to me and treated everyone respectfully. One day I had a guard get very disrespectful his name was Herwig. He would take food off my tray and try to refuse giving me my medications. When I reported him to his supervisor, I was brought to the Segregation captains Office 'where Director Aldana, and captain Gegaire talked to me and Officer Herwig, From that point on I had no further problems with Herwig. Security Director Aldana and Seg.Captain Gegaire told me to keep my cool and they would get me sent to general population at Waupun in sixty days instead of 180 like I was on those frivolous tickets. They kept their word

and I was transferred to W.C.I. after doing sixty days at R.C.I.

Waupun Correctional Institutions air quality is so bad I kept getting lung infections and was hospitalized at the Waupun Memorial Hospital's security unit at least seven times. I once was tortured by Sergeant Carley when he decided to wrap duct tape around the bandit shocking device, this was done while I couldn't breathe and was not the normal protocol as the device is equipped with two heavy duty velcro Straps and he used them plus at least ten layers of duct tape which turned my leg blue all the way to my toes, It also left the shocking probe marks on my leg for four days. I spent roughly five years straight at Waupun and was also a victim of torturous behaviors by these other staff, Joseph Beam, officer Reinke, Security Director Strahota was always making verbally offensive comments that were demoralizing and degrading. I once saw a lieutenant by the name of Graff go into cell across from my cell which was A-224 in Seg. and there was an inmate in the cell across from me who was on observation and they had him tied down but Lieutenant Graff found it necessary to use a riot shock shield on him even though this inmate was tied down in six point restraints and wearing a spit mask also. I found this to be outright criminal all I could hear is this young man's screams. I also met two outstanding High ranking staff there. Ms Pamala Zank gave me a job in the behavioral health unit (where I spent two years) and treated everyone the same, captain Meli who became the Security Director also held himself to a very high standard and was fair. However there are just too many Correctional Officers employed by the Department of Corrections that think their uniform and badge are cloaks of invisibility and are not worried about a notation in their files - To get to the point, My belief is that the D.A.I. (Division of Adult -Institutions) has failed to ensure that the institutions under their authority are operated with integrity, and some times have failed to protect the inmates and society from correctional staffs criminal activity. I went to Redgranite Correctional institution after Waupun where I have more examples of these kinds of behavior by correctional staff. Which include proof in the form of a written memorandum that I was accused of not eating my double portions and that I had been giving them away, when I pointed out that this was not true. I later got a memorandum, and in it the Health Services Manager recanted this statement. My health records are also falsified in many places There is one place in them where what the nurse wrote would make you think she was having a stroke at the time of her entry to the medical records. Also I have been lung infection free since I got out of W.C.I. Which was about five years ago, and I have been at three institutions since then and have not been hospitalized once for my asthma or lung infection.

While at Redgranite, I was transported to the Waupun Memorial Hospital for an appointment with a G.I. specialist to get a flex sigmoidoscopy done, an inmate by the name of Jamie Jardine and I were placed in a secure waiting area when we arrived - This was an unsterile ward that had two steel security doors, was not a sterile environment, and I was ordered by a Corrections Officer whose last name was Grenier to do two enemas in the bathroom which lacked sufficient privacy due to a door that was only about two 1/2 feet tall with all restraints on except one hand cuff and another inmate in the room. Plus these officers were aware of my back and knee problems but showed no mercy. I was told you kneel on the floor, which was extremely filthy, and an officer told me that I either do it his way or refuse, this was while Jamie Jardine was in the room also and I have an affidavit from inmate Jardine to prove this. They made me do two of them under these conditions and less than twenty feet from this waiting area the hospital has a secure inmate ward that is sterile and staffed by nurses. Inmate Jardine later informed me on the way back to Redgranite that he was took to the institutions infirmary about four hours before his appointment and given the required patient privacy. I think this violated H.I.P.P.A. and State patient privacy laws. You see he was seeing Dr. Mickelson, the same Dr. I was, and had the same thing done a while back. I have filed a notice of claim with the Attorney General's office about that issue and am still trying to find legal representation. One more thing I think you should know, Since when is it legal to bring medicine from outside a hospital that didn't have a contract with the hospital to use their medicine inside the hospital? Doesn't the hospital have to use medicines provided from their vendor for tracking purposes? I was told I was being referred for a full colonoscopy, and endoscopy but the

institution transferred me and no other Dr. has followed the specialists recommendation since. I continue to have G.I. Issues. The next institution I was transferred to was Oshkosh Correctional Institution. I stayed here for three months only due to the fact that there was an unforeseen need for bedspace for people who needed twenty four hour care. I got in no trouble there. One thing I want to make very clear is that for ten years now, Degrading and Demeaning comments have been the order of the day from the supposed professional staff, their behavior is abusive and demoralizing towards inmates and exposes their true nature. This underscores the Department of Corrections mission to rehabilitate and its rules, policies and procedures. I will say the problem is about 50/50 not all staff are engaging in abusive conduct, however it only takes one Emerald Ash borer to "destroy beautiful trees." The current inmate complaint system has to be replaced with a group of trustworthy individuals that have no affiliation-with the D.A.I. or D.O.C.

There was a law passed called the P.L.R.A.(Known as the Prison Litigation Reform Act.)This law makes it almost impossible to get help from a lawyer and hold the D.A.I. and D.O.C. accountable for the actions staff engage in. Essentially this makes the complaint system more of an act-and unless the issue is not serious, and easily resolved the prison system simply have you go through the motions of the complaint system until you get to the end and your administrative remedies are exhausted. This leads inmates into a feeling of hopelessness. I can see now why common thieves are becoming violent offenders or even murderers-Now I am at R.C.I. where my story continues today. One day I will be released and am not going to become another statistic or end up dead in a gutter! The one thing that stands out is very clear to me. The D.O.C lacks positive reinforcement, and the resolution to give honest services to inmates in their charge and custody .Some prison staff thrive on dehumanizing prisoner and take the meaning of Corrections too far. I've watched them target inmates property, and confiscate items that were allowable and belonged to them, take privileges away for petty reasons and often just to assert their authority without just cause. The guards have made conduct reports a weapon in the prison arsenal and use them for discipline and retaliation. All too often, inmates become scapegoats for misconduct and the short comings of staff. Our punishments were handed down by the courts through the legal system. What I have experienced is more akin to vigilante acts by staff, rather than a code of professional conduct amongst prison official who should always display courtesy, common sense, and responsibility. The negative reinforcement must stop!

I have nine years left to serve and can only hope things change, from damaging inmates psychologically, to building them up for successful reentry into the community.

Sincerely, Jason Brush

The End.